

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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TAGS: SNAR, AR

SUBJECT: FY 75-76 NARCOTICS PROGRAM REVIEW

REF: A. STATE 257400, B. BA A-287 DTD 2 SEP 74

SUMMARY. AS INSTRUCTED IN REF A, THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS ACTION COMMITTEE HAS REVIEWED THE INTERNAL SITUATION AS IT RELATED TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AND HAS CONCLUDED THAT GOA HAS THE WILL AND THE ABILITY TO CONDUCT AN EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN AND THAT IT WOULD APPROPRIATELY USE USG COMMODITIES IN SUCH AN EFFORT. THE ARGENTINE COUNTRY PROGRAM SUBMISSION RELATION TO ABUSE/EDUCATION IS AMENDED. END SUMMARY

1. THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS ACTION COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THE GOA CAN AND WILL UNDERTAKE ITS COMMITMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLICIT DRUGS AS SO STATED IN THE USG/GOA AGREEMENTS OF 21 SEP 72, AND 28 MAY 74.

2. CONCERNING THE POINTS RAISED IN REF A, PARA 2, WE CAN APPRECIATE THE LAINCC CONCERNING THAT SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT MIGHT NOT BE FULLY OR ONLY USED FOR NARCOTICS WORK. TO SOME DEGREE THIS IS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO THE EQUIPMENT TO BE USED BY THE GENDARMERIA NACIONAL IN THE FAR NORTHWESTERN PORTION OF THE COUNTRY. NO DEA AGENTS

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WILL BE PERMANENTLY STATIONED IN THAT AREA, NOR WOULD THE

EMBASSY PERMIT THEM TO BE, SO THE ACTUAL USE OF THE EQUIPMENT CAN NOT BE MONITORED ON A REGULAR BASIS. HOWEVER, THE LANGUAGE OF THE PROAG SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE GENDARMERIA FOR THE GOA STATES THAT THE GENDARMERIA WILL "ENSURE THAT THE VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED TO THE NARCOTICS SECTION BE UTILIZED EXCLUSIVELY FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL" (ARTICLE IV B). THE PROAG WAS NEGOTIATED AND SIGNED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS IN GOOD FAITH AND AT THIS TIME WE HAVE NO BASIS TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL NOT BE HONORED BY THE GOA. AS FOR THE OTHER EQUIPMENT FOR FY75: THE VEHICLES FOR THE FEDERAL POLICE WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE NARCOTICS POLICE, WHOSE SOLE FUNCTION IS THE INTERDICTION OF TRAFFICKING AND TRAFFICKERS, WHILE THE LABORATORY EQUIPMENT IS HIGHLY SPECIALIZED GEAR NEEDED FOR NARCOTICS ANALYSIS. IN FY76 EQUIPMENT FOR ENFORCEMENT WILL ALSO GO TO THE NARCOTICS POLICE, OR TO A SPECIAL ANTI-NARCOTICS UNIT IN CUSTOMS.

3. THIS EMBASSY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY GOA PERSONNEL WHO HAVE RECEIVED USG TRAINING ARE NOT CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO NARCOTICS WORK. A PARTIAL EXCEPTION MAY BE THE 12 SENIOR GENDARMERIA OFFICERS NOW ON A NARCOTICS ORIENTATION COURSE IN THE US. UPON THEIR RETURN THEY WILL BE ASSIGNED TO VARIOUS COMMAND POSITIONS WITHIN THE GENDARMERIA WHERE THEY WILL ASSUME CHARGE OF THE APPROPRIATE GENDARMERIA FUNCTIONS, ONE OF WHICH IS NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT THE REPORTING ON ARGENTINA FROM BOTH THIS POST AND IN THE MEDIA LAYS HEAVY EMPHASIS ON TERRORISM AND EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS IT BY THE POLICE. (THUS FAR THE ARMED FORCES HAVE PLAYED A VERY SMALL DIRECT ROLE.) OBVIOUSLY ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIVITY IS A HIGH POLICE PRIORITY, IF NOT THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. WHILE THE 38,000 MEMBER FEDERAL POLICE FORCE IS HEAVILY TAXED BY THIS ASSIGNMENT, IT IS STILL MAINTAINING ITS PRIMARY ROLE OF PROVIDING LAW AND ORDER IN BUENOS AIRES THROUGH REGULAR POLICE DUTIES. THERE HAS BEEN, FOR EXAMPLE, NO REDUCTION (AND ACTUALLY A SLIGHT INCREASE) IN THE MANPOWER ASSIGNED TO THE NARCOTICS UNIT SINCE THE TERRORIST CAMPAIGN INTENSIFIED AFTER THE DEATH, IN JULY, OF GENERAL PERON. IT MAY WELL BE THAT IN THE FUTURE GREATER MANPOWER INPUTS FOR ANTI-TERRORIST WORK WILL BE REQUIRED OF THE FEDERAL POLICE FOR BUENOS AIRES AND THE GENDARMERIA ALONG THE BORDERS. HOWEVER, NO MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY ACTION COMMITTEE NOW FORSEES A LEVEL OF ACTION AGAINST THE TERRORISTS THAT WOULD SO CRIPPLE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICE IN TERMS OF MANPOWER THAT IT WOULD BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE ITS FUNCTION OF BASIC PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE GOA LAWS, INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO NARCOTICS.

4. THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THE GOA CONTINUES TO FOLLOW A POLICY AIMED AT AN AGGRESSIVE AND EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT. NO MORE CONCRETE EXAMPLE CAN BE GIVEN THAT THE GOVERNMENT SPONSORED REVISION OF THE CRIMINAL CODE RELATING TO NARCOTICS

(BA 8097) WHICH NOT ONLY SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHENS PENALTIES BUT ALSO GIVES THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES NATIONWIDE JURISDICTION IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. "PROVINCIAL RIGHTS" TO THE ARGENTINE EVEN OF TODAY ARE WHAT "STATE RIGHTS" WERE TO THE AMERICAN SOUTH OF PERHAPS 1900. IT IS AN AREA WHERE THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES TREAD VERY LIGHTLY, IF AT ALL. THAT IT WOULD DO SO IN NARCOTICS SHOWS THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE GOA TREATS THE MATTER.

5. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FAVOR AN ACTIVE CAMPAIGN. CURRENTLY DEA AGENTS IN BUENOS AIRES ARE WORKING NOT ONLY WITH THE NARCOTICS POLICE, WHO OF COURSE HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY, BUT ALSO WITH OTHER UNITS OF THE FEDERAL POLICE WHO HAVE DEVELOPED SOME VERY PROMISING LEADS. THE DIRECTOR OF THE GENDARMERIA AS RECENTLY AS LAST MONTH REITERATED TO AMBASSADOR HILL THE IMPORTANCE OF NARCOTICS WORK IN HIS ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES. THE DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS IS CREATING A SPECIAL ANTI-NARCOTICS SQUAD FROM HIS LIMITED MANPOWER POOL.

6. ON BALANCE: THE GOA HAS THE COMMITMENT AND THE ABILITY TO UNDERTAKE AN EFFECTIVE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM. WE CAN ASSIST SIGNIFICANTLY THROUGH COMMODITY INPUTS WHICH WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE WILL NOT BE APPROPRIATELY UTILIZED.

7. CONCERNING INPUTS TO THE CONATON/CENARESO ESTABLISHMENT, WE BELIEVE, FOR THE REASONS GIVEN IN REF B, SUCH INPUTS ARE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR MUTUAL EFFORT INSOFAR AS IT RELATES TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING. HOWEVER, BASED ON THE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT AT THE MEXICO CITY MEETING, THE ENAC PROPOSES THAT BA/05 BE REVISED TO DELETE PROVISION OF BOTH THE THREE B & W TELEVISION SETS AND THE 6 AIRCONDITIONERS. PROVISION OF THE REST OF THE EQUIPMENT WILL MATERIALLY ASSIST BOTH IN THE DIRECT OPERATION OF THE HOSPITAL ITSELF AND IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESTABLISHMENT BY CONATON/CENARESO OF AN EFFECTIVE AND RELATED EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN.
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